Parliamentary Cooperation and Diplomacy in EU External Relations

An Essential Companion
Leuven Global Governance series

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In today’s increasingly complex and interdependent world, the role of parliaments in external affairs remains a relatively under explored topic of research. The multiple patterns of global governance are mostly dominated by the executive branches of government, with parliaments relegated to the sidelines. This insightful book aims to challenge this dominant perspective and demonstrate the increased networking of parliaments both within the EU and with external actors outside the EU. It not only sheds light on EU parliamentary cooperation and networking, but also reveals the growing scope and role of parliamentary scrutiny, control and conflict mediation.

‘In a period marked by nationalism and populism, the relevance of the roles played by parliaments is sometimes underestimated and rather deserves greater attention. The book edited by Raube, Wouters and Müütler-Baç gathers a group of leading scholars in the field of parliamentary studies and contributes to bridge a gap in a very sensitive policy field, that is to say the external relations of the European Union. A wide list of approaches and theoretical and empirical investigations demonstrates that, despite the dominant influence of the executive branches of government, not only networking of parliaments has enlarged, but also traditional and innovative roles, i.e. control and conflict mediation, have been amplified and diversified. Therefore, parliaments are far from being put aside.’

– Daniela Irrera, EuropeNow

‘If you believe that external relations constitutes the next frontier of democratic assertion in the EU; if you are a sceptic and ask what difference can parliaments at all levels make to the EU’s external policy; if you are intrigued by the connection between transnational parliamentary cooperation within Europe and democratization outside Europe; if you want to explore the many motivations, opportunities and paths for such developments under the Lisbon Treaty, and to do so in many disciplinary languages, this book is for you. An essential guide indeed.’

– Kalypso Nicolaidis, University of Oxford, UK

‘This volume provides a comprehensive and detailed analysis of the role of parliaments in EU external relations, one of the most topical issues in parliamentary studies and international relations today. Overall the chapters offer normatively and empirically well-informed contributions on parliamentary cooperation and diplomacy in a variety of international and regional settings and policy areas vis-à-vis the EU. The book is a must-read for scholars and professionals working at the intersection between EU law, international law, constitutional law and political science.’

– Cristina Fasone, LUISS University, Italy

‘An impressive collection of chapters, gathering authors from all over Europe and beyond. All of them offer different perspectives on a phenomenon that has significantly developed during the last 30 years. The many ways through which parliaments have become one of the main actors of external relations must be exploited. Not only does this innocuous but well-conceived book make an important contribution to the debate on how parliaments can contribute to this political process.’

– Elena Zoppo, Director of Research in the Political and Social Sciences, Italian Parliament, Italy

‘The book is for all those who feel that the democratic aspects of EU policy-making are too often neglected. A comprehensive and stimulating collection of contributions on the topic of parliamentary cooperation in the EU’s external relations.’

– Andrea Molinaro, University of Florence, Italy

‘This collection provides readers with a comprehensive, balanced, and engaging overview of the role played by parliaments in European foreign policy-making. The book is an essential companion for all those interested in understanding how parliaments can play a crucial role in EU external relations.’

– Sandro Oltrogge, Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, KU Leuven, Belgium
EU external relations and have established inter-parliamentary networks are carefully analysed and critically discussed according to both legal and political science approaches.

– Nicola Lupo, LUISS University, Italy